1: Petrullo E-3 (1933-34) 1939 SS19 Yaruro SS19

aboriginal peoples are called by the Spanish word "Racionales" which is the equivalent of "civilizado," civilized. It was only after they came to the conclusion that I was a Pumeh also, and quite different from the Racionales, that they accepted me and made this study possible.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Yaruros are small and dark with a strong mongoloid appearance. The faces are heavy, broad, with the eyes very often showing the mongoloid fold. The average stature of the men is about 5 feet 3 inches and of the women about 4 feet 10 inches. One gets the impression that the heads are larger than the ordinary in comparison with the body size. The frame is light, both men and women possessing small, beautifully shaped hands and feet. The body is relatively hairless, as is usual among pure Indian peoples. They have strong teeth and seem to keep them until a very old age.

The Yaruros have had some contact with Europeans or mixtures of Spanish, Negro, and Indians for several centuries. Herrara reached the Meta River in 1535, and subsequently missions were established along the Orinoco and its tributaries. About 1750 a mission was established at La Urbana for the Otomacos, and one was later established at Barinas. Apparently at that time these people inhabited the region between the Capanaparo and the Apure. No missions were established for the Yaruros, and, according to Gilii, the Yaruros came to the Otomaco missions to be baptized. Father Gumilla wrote:

> Here, between the Sinaruco and Meta rivers were established the colonies of Santa Barbara and of San Juan Francisco Regis at the end of 1739, having pacified the Saruro (Yaruro) nation; of which nation Father Manuel Roman, the Superior of those missions, in a letter of February 20, 1740, gives me excellent news of their good will and docility and, which is receiving our teachings anxiously; with the hope that with the good example of these first two other Reductions will be established. He adds that in the colony of San Francisco de Borja of the same nation Sarura, of which Father Francisco de Olmo is in charge, who has reduced their language to writing and a dictionary, Christianity is flourishing; and that already schools for writing, reading, and singing are attended by children (a short while ago they were wild); and that they sing the mass, litanies, etc., in a fair way. So much does careful and diligent effort accomplish in those wild regions! Father Rogue Lubian takes care of the Santa Teresa village with the same efficiency; Father Jose Maria Cervillini is in charge of San Ignacio; he, with Brother Agustin de la Vega, attend as best they can the rest of the new villages, and they are clamoring for workers with the firm hope that you will send them as soon as possible.

Since there has been contact with the white man and some Negroes for several centuries, one would expect a certain amount of race mixture. However, I never saw a sign of the slightest trace of Negro blood. The hair which, more than any other characteristic, seems to indicate Negro contact, in the case of the Yaruro is coarse and straight,

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and if not jet black, chestnut in color. The following table gives the measurements of practically every adult Yaruro met with:

PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Measurements

EL BURON

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Sex	Approximate age	Height	Sitting height	Head length	Head breadth	Cephalic index	Zygomatic breadth	Symbols refer to hair samples (unstudied)
		Cm	Cm	Cm	Cm		Cm	
F	20	144.5	75	17.3	15.2	87.9	13.2	F1a.
F	35	153.5	79.5	18.5	14.6	78.9	13.1	F2a.
F	35	146	75	18.7	14	74.9	13.5	F3a.
F	18	149	77	17.2	15.2	88.4	13.2	F4a.
F	40	151.5	83.5	17.7	14	79.1	13.2	F5a.
Average	28.6	148.9	78.0	17.9	14.6	81.8	13.2	
M	20	164.5	85	17.8	15	84.3	13	M1a.
M	30	168.6	90.3	17.7	15.3	86.4	13.8	M2a.
M	30	162.5	81	18.7	14.7	78.6	13.9	M3a.
M	30	160.5	81	19.3	15	77.7	13.8	M4a.
Average	30	160.6	81.8	18.4	15.0	81.8	13.6	

LAGUNOTE

F		153	75.8	18	14	77.8	12.7	F1b.
F		148.8	78.4	16.3	13.6	83.4	12.6	F2b.
F		142	71	17.5	14.5	82.9	13.1	F3b.
F		147	72.7	17.7	14	78.1	12	F4b.
F		130.3	74.4	17.4	13.8	79.3	11.6	F5b.
F		157	79.4	18.4	14.2	77.2	13	F6b.
F		150.3	81.4	17.6	14	79.5	12.5	F7b.
F		150.5	78.2	17.8	14.5	81.5	12.7	F8b.
F		144.3	78.4	18.6	14.4	77.4	12.7	F9b.
Average		147.8	76.3	17.7	14.1	79.8	12.7	
M		162.4	84.2	18.5	14.4	77.8	13.9	M1b.
M		168.5	79.6	18.4	14.4	78.3	13.7	M2b.
M		163.9	83.1	18.2	14.7	80.7	14.5	M3b.
M		166.2	81.5	18.7	15	80.2	13.4	M4b.
M		159.4	79.3	18.6	14.3	76.1	13.8	M5b.
M		154.5	76	18.7	15.1	80.7	13.7	M6b.
M		152.	73.6	18	14.2	78.9	13.2	M7b.
Average		159.3	79.6	18.3	14.6	80.4	13.5	

MERCEDES

F		153.6	81	18.4	13.4	72.8	13.4	F1c.
F		146.5	77.4	18	14.9	82.8	13	F2c.
F		158	81.5	18.3	14.4	78.6	12.7	F3c.
F		144.5	74.5	19	14.1	74.2	13.7	F4c.
F		153.5	77	18.3	14.3	78.6	13.3	F5c.
F		147.9	73.5	17.7	13.7	77.4	13	F6c.
F		134.6	70.2	17.6	13.8	78.4	11.9	F7c.
Average		148.4	76.5	18.3	14.2	77.7	12.9	
M		167.4	84.1	19.9	15.7	78.9	14.7	M1c.
M		168.4	87.7	19.9	17.3	86.9	15	M2c.
M		160.2	83.2	18.5	16	86.5	15.3	M3c.
M		164.4	87.7	18.5	15.2	82.2	14.1	M4c.
M		158.4	81.5	17.8	15.6	87.6	14.5	M5c.
M		160.2	82.1	18.4	15.4	83.7	14.8	M6c.
M		164.6	81.4	18.7	15.2	81.3	15.2	M7c.
M		158.5	77.6	18.7	14.4	77.0	13.6	M8c.
Average		162.2	82.2	18.8	15.6	82.0	14.6	

N. B.—Hair samples of children.

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142 Among the llaneros the Yaruros have the reputation of being darker in color than any of the other tribes. This may be due to their daily exposure to the sun, for I have noticed that forest peoples tend to be lighter in color than those living in the open country. This observation was also made by the early Spanish missionaries. Gilii wrote:

> The color of the peoples of the Orinoco commonly is dark, but somewhat reddish. It is true that some tribes, for example the Otomachi[1] and the Guami[1], incline toward black. But they are of such a color, nevertheless, that there is no one among them who can be said to be similar to the Negroes, whose color they abhor. Generally the tribes close to the Orinoco like the Zaruri (Jaruros), and the Quaquari[1] are brown; even more whitish are the inhabitants of the interior, and of the forests. Whitish are the Maipuri, some Tamanachi, and above all the Macchiritari, and the Oji.[1]

The most striking thing in the appearance of the Yaruros is the skin condition referred to by the Racionales as "pintado," painted. When a Yaruro is first afflicted, some patch of his skin will become dry and almost sooty black in color. This will gradually lose all pigment and become as light as the skin of a white man. Practically every individual of the band I met at El Buron showed this patchy skin. The appearance is analogous to that of being profusely covered with [146] freckles. This condition does not affect the health of the individual in any way. By the Racionales it is attributed to the habit of eating crocodile meat and crocodile eggs. The Yaruros give no explanation for it.

364 They practice no mutilations except that the women drill small holes [752] through the lower lip through which they thrust bone pins. One woman wore 13 such pins. She often used them to prick blisters raised by insect bites.

516 The Yaruros seemed to be ambidextrous. In a group of approximately 150, I counted 6 cases of definite left-handedness, but generally, the left hand is used with a certain amount of dexterity. In addition to using the hands, the toes are used to pick up objects; for instance, if the man wishes to pick up his bow from the ground he will not stoop, but will pick it up with his toes and raise it to the level of his hands.

The posture of the Yaruros is an excellent adaptation to the soft sands on which they are forced to walk whenever they are out of their canoes. Their shoulders are thrown far back with the chest

[1] Gilii, vol. 2, book 1, p. 34: Il colore degli Orinochesi, comunamente e fosco, ma inclinante alquanto all' rossicio. Vero e, che alcune nazioni, a cagion di esempio, gli Ottomachi, ed i Guani, tirano piutosto al nero. Ma sono di color tale nondimeno, che niuno tra essi vi e, che possa dirsi simile a Negri, il cual colore abborriscono moltissimo. Generalmente le nazioni vicine all 'Orinoco, siccome le suddette, i Zaurui, e i Quaquari, sono piu brune; piu bianchi gli abitanti delle macchie interne, e de'monti. Bianchicci sono dunque i Mapoi, i Maipuri, alcuni Tamanachi, e sopra tutti i Macchiritari, e gli Oji.

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1. Yaruro bowman. The arrow is held to the string between the forefinger and thumb. The middle and fourth finger help pull the string back. 2. Crocodile meat is a staple food. The legs and tail have been cut off to make carrying easier. 3. Yaruros of Laguneta wearing parts of author's towels for breechclouts.

(End Plate 2)

1: Petrullo E-3 (1933-34) 1939 S519 Yaruro S519

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1, 2, 3. As soon as the night chill is dispelled the men leave to hunt and the women to gather roots and seeds. The equipment of the women consists of basket carried with a tump band across the forehead, and digging stick. Children are carried astride across the hip or in a carrying net. The aboriginal clothing of the Yaruro women is the girdle shown in these photographs, now worn even if the individual possesses a camisola.

(End Plate 8)

1: Petrullo E-3 (1933-34) 1939 SS19 Yaruro SS19

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1. The shaman Landaeta with daughter and wife. Note the embroidered breechclout on the man and paint on the face of the figure at the left. 2. Yaruro man making hammock string. Note the typical sitting posture of the Yaruro. 3. Two little girls wearing girdles. 4. Yaruro woman with aboriginal costume. 5. The figure on the left is a girl. The figure on the right is a boy. Note the difference between the girdle worn by the girl and the breechclout worn by the boy.

(End Plate 15)